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LORIA'S *Synthèse économique*: AN EXPLANATION

The Editors gladly print below the translation of a letter from Professor Loria, referring to the notice which appeared on p. 865 of the *Journal of Political Economy* for October, 1912.

TURIN, ITALY
October 28, 1912

SIR:

I cannot suffer to pass without a reply the criticism of my translator, M. Camille Monnet, which you made in the last number of your *Journal*, referring to passages in my *Synthèse économique* which were suppressed in the French edition. The fact is that these passages were suppressed with my authorization and simply to meet a requirement of the publisher, since the volumes of the *Bibliothèque* of Messrs. Giard & Brière must not too far exceed five hundred pages. A number of other works have had to undergo a similar reduction in order to appear in this series. But the suppressions do not involve essential points of demonstration or of documentation. They are confined to the curtailment of certain notes, or of certain critical or polemic passages, and consequently cannot in any way mar the work as a whole.

I beg that you will be so kind as to publish this correction in the next number of the *Journal*.

I am, sir,

ACHILLE LORIA

Common Land and Inclosure. By E. C. K. GONNER. London: Macmillan, 1912. 8vo, pp. xxx+461. \$4.00.

While a great deal has already been published on the subject of the English Common and Inclosure, Professor Gonner's treatment of the subject is so intensive and exhaustive that the work must be considered a real contribution to our historical economic literature. It is beyond doubt the result of an enormous amount of original study and comparison of government documents, court records, and other sources. Following the English plan of arrangement, it is divided into three so-called books. The first of these deals with Common and Inclosure in general, describing in detail the various rights of common, such as pasture, shack, estover, turbary, piscary, fowling, etc., all or a part of which went with the ownership of a strip of arable land and its corresponding strip of meadow or hayfield; the whole more or less closely bound up with some lord's manor. The procedures in extinguishing these rights and in bringing about the inclosures are treated with equal care from both the legal and the practical point of view. Book II traces the progress of inclosures by periods and by geographical divisions, from the time when sheep began to figure as the "destroyers of farms and the devourers of men"

down to the modern inclosures more systematically brought about and more generally recognized as promoting economic welfare, though by no means devoid of hardship to certain classes of individuals. Book III deals with the effect of inclosures from various points of view, namely, that of agriculture in general—methods of farming, amount and variety of crops and animals produced and their improvement in quality; social and economic effects upon country life as such; and lastly, the effect upon employment and population of the country as a whole.

The style is simple and matter-of-fact. The conclusions drawn are guarded and conservative. The work has an exceptionally well-arranged analytical table of contents, a considerable amount of statistical data in tabular form as well as interspersed in the text, and several excellent cartograms showing the situation as regards common and inclosure at different periods. The volume will not prove fascinating to the general reader, but the teacher and the student of economic and social conditions in the past will find here a large amount of interesting material.

Annalen für soziale Politik und Gesetzgebung. Herausgegeben von HEINRICH BRAUN. Berlin: Julius Springer. M. 18 per annum.

It is just a year since the first issue of this new journal, which takes for its aim the independent and purely scientific discussion of social politics and social legislation with the purpose of arriving at an objective knowledge of social problems and affairs regardless of any ethical considerations. The editor is the well-known former head of the *Archiv für Socialwissenschaft und Socialpolitik*, Dr. Heinrich Braun. As this eminent editor has succeeded in securing the co-operation of numerous important specialists in various countries, the confidence placed in him has been justified even during the first year of the journal. The *Annalen* have already made themselves indispensable to those in public life who are concerned either theoretically or practically with questions of social policy.

In addition to comprehensive articles dealing with vital questions of social politics, the *Annalen* contain short but thorough accounts of current problems and of actual conditions, as well as reviews of current literature in their special field. The character of the contributions which have already been published reveals the editor's intention to provide in larger measure than hitherto a forum in which men of affairs and men in politics may discuss social theory and practice, not in the interests of party but rather to draw suggestions from the viewpoint of the practical man and to offer such suggestions out of the knowledge of the scholar—all for the mutual correction of one-sided views and for the establishment of a better understanding than has yet been realized. For nowhere does insight gain ground more slowly than in the field of social science, to such an extent is the history of social science the history of the struggle against prejudice.